

A full and certain
ACCOUNT

Of the last great
Wind & Storms,

Being a
NARRATIVE
OF THE

Several Accidents, Hurts and Damages
caused thereby, both by Sea and Land, at
home and abroad.

*Collected out of Domestick and Forreign Letters
with a great deal of care and diligence, and
faithfully published.*

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ACCOUNT

Of the last great

Winds and Storms,

On Tuesday *February* 18. The like not
in the memory of man before.

Here have been many discourses on a book lately published, called the *Prodigies*, with what Treasonable reflections, we list not to mention, therefore to secure the Reader from any such danger or infection, we shall insist of this great last wind, which happened on Tuesday last, *February*, 18. as deduced

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from

from natural causes which cannot but portend as now we are settled great and lasting prosperity.

That the overruling Government of the Heavens, should be any argument of unruliness in the people, or that Stargazers or such like Spies of the Tribe, should have such powerful influences on Rebellion, by Prognosticating, and such Almanack stories, is no new matter, though in which the Contrivers and Authors of new mischiefs, have so long and lately laboured, that there is no pity for such conjurers.

First, then (not to say that if there were any Diabolical power in this tempest, as he is the Prince of the Ayr, some Luciferian haughty Rebelling spirits as formerly were abroad) we shall describe the nature of Winds, their originals and ends, for unprejudiced satisfaction to the honest countrymen, whom this storm will most directly concern, (leaving the Citizen to look to their Tiles, and Chimnies, the Bricklayers Harvest) as which will afford him not onely advice for the future, but some past memorable observations.

That these winds have usually forerun great alterations and changes is no untruth; that they have also signified nothing or presaged any turn is truth, but without some damage both at Sea and Land they never happened. We will therefore take a short view of the nature of the several Winds, and then proceed to the strange effects of this.

The beginning of Winds which requires a deep search and inquiry (as the Scripture saith, *the winds blow where in listeth*) seeing that the whence and the whither are things hidden from us, I shall not undertake positively to affirm. This is certain that Winds are either imbred,

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imbred, that is to say of the place where they most usually blow, or forraign that is strangers, which continue not, but vary and alter into all points of the compass, but these which are strangers here, are Natives in other Countries.

There beginnings are threefold. First, they breath or spring out of the ground. Secondly, they come down from the upper Region. Or, Thirdly, are made up in the body of the Air, which last I pitch upon as the surest; Wind being nothing else but the Ayr moved, which being violently troubled, causeth those storms and Tempests that affright the World, being as inundations of Waters, through their vehemency.

Histories are the best explainers of such Whirl-Winds, being taken from observations, such as these.

1. Sudden blasts never come in clear weather, but always when the Sky is Cloudy, and the Weather Rainy.
2. Storms which come with a Fogg and Mist, are very violent and most dreadful to Seamen. All of them have a most sudden motion, and most commonly so expire, but generally neer the Ecclipse of the Moon, you must look for them, as also at the Conjunction of the Planets.

Having thus far premised, I need not tell you of those Hurricans which the Ships meet withal towards the Southern most parts of the world, whereby so many hard adventures have been lost; or that at home in our Meadows, Haycocks have been carried on high and spread abroad there like Canopies, by the same force; or that Trees have been torn up by the roots, and thrown to the ground, or that in fine, through this very cause, those frequenter Earth-quakes abroad,
and

and falling of ground here, have happened through these tumultuous and boysterous outrages of the wind.

To our purpose, nothing could have proved more natural, (howsoever destructive to Houses and Edifices) to the earth then this late tempest for the ayre, being filled and foggd with many vapours, not usual, for the heat in this season of the year, neither Frost nor Snow clearing and purifying the ayre, or binding the earth wherein the hopes of life and sustenance are laid for the ensuing year (the poor infinitely suffering for want of bread, and through the raised prize of all manner of victuals) nothing could more seasonably disperse those gathered Exhalation and free the Ayr to the exercise of that bounty and plenty, which it has for many years together, before this, showed down upon this Land and Nation, so that we who formerly were supplied from abroad with all manner of grain, as from *Dantzick*, *Queen-burgh* and the Eastern parts of the world, have been able to help others at as equal prizes as those Corn Countries usually afforded.

This famous wind happened on *February*, 18. some days before which deceased that most Noble Royal Lady the Queen of *Bohemia*, his Majesties onely Aunt, who had for so many years been absent from this Kingdom, and was driven and tossed through a Sea of troubles, so that it may be thought these winds gave notice that she was gone to her rest.

But omitting all Notes upon the matter, we will descend to a particular Narration of those disasters, and sad accidents, which fell out and were occasioned by this tempest, the damages whereof amount (to what is yet known though more losses will I
fear

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I fear he reckoned hereafter) to an incredible
sum, but as the Proverb is, *It is an ill wind that blows
no body good*, so as before is said, no doubt much
advantage will hereby acree to us in our hopes of a
plentiful year; and to be sure in the City, the Brick-
layers very much rejoyce, and are like to be merry.

We begin in order and dignity, with his Majesties
Palace at *Whitehal*, and his Park of *S. James*, where
the force of the Wind drove the water of the new
River (cut there lately by his Majesties order) three-
score yards from its boundary bank, up to the *Cock-pit*
stairs, and the Court of Guard there kept, in the man-
ner of showers, so that the guards could not stand
there; and also threw up on dry land many hundred
of the fishes of all sorts, then swimming in the said
River: At the same time also, some Chambers near
His Majesties Royal person were a fire, but it pleased
God the wind had not the same violent effect, the
flame with diligence being happily put out, and hin-
dred from spreading itself any further.

In the next place, the *Mews* where the Kings sta-
bles are, was most lamentably shattered, the great
barn being unraftered, and the upper part of it tot-
tering, and all quite blown down, to the great ter-
ror of the horses, who in fear broke from their hal-
ters, and run up and down the yard as if bewitched,
and could hardly be caught again, or made quiet,
till the dreadfulnes of the storm was past and spent.

Another more sad and lamentable accident hapned
at the new Buildings in *Pickadilly*, where one Mr.
Blithan Attorney of *Lincolneshire*, passing by with his
man, he observed a brick house to totter and reel,
and

and therefore desired his Master, that he would not venture to go under that way, but would cross over to the other side of the street; which he not regarding, ventured to run through that danger, and in the middle of his passage, it pleased God the house fell down, and buried him in its ruines; he was taken up with much ado alive, and continued so for half an hour, or thereabouts; during which time, he spoke something concerning his rashness and folly in tempting God, desiring him to forgive him, and receive him into mercy, and then quietly expired.

In *Covent-Garden*, neer the *Fleece Tavern*, there the Lady *Saltenstone*, her maid being dressing her in her lodging, was by the fall of a chimney which fell forward into her chamber; covered over with the load of bricks, and bruised, wounded and stifled to death, before any help or remedy could be had; being afterwards drawn out quite dead, to the great grief of all her relations and other persons acquainted with her rare vertues and endowments. Her maid who was dressing her was hurt, but is in the way of recovery.

Likewise a Gentleman in the Parish of *S. Andrewse Holborn*, as he was venturing to go along the streets, which no rational man durst do, by the fall of a chimney, had his brains beat out, and all his body so bruised and broken, that it looked in a very gastly and terrible manner: His fate and death is the more to be pitied, because of his presumptuous unpreparation for his end.

At *Greys-Inn* gate in *Holborn* at the same time, a Coach with two horses standing there, another chimney fell and killed one of the horses, at which the other

other was so terrified, that he broke his harness, and got free, and galloped away as fast as he could drive, the apprehension of the danger being so great even in those irrational and brute creatures.

I had almost omitted the Tragedy and Catastrophe of those stately Triumphal Arches, built against the Solemnity, and for the Grandeur of his Majesties Coronation last year, at *Fleet-street* and *Laaden-bul-street*, where the tops of them were wholly reversed and beaten down; that in *Fleet-street* falling on the neighbouring houses, and bringing down the uppermost rooms and chimneys, to a very great detriment.

At *Brady Warf* near *Queen-hitho*, a Western Barge laden with cheese, was by the stress of the Wind over-set, and her keel turned topsie turvy, though there were other barges about that seemed to shelter her; the cheese was all sunk, some part whereof is since recovered, and sold to loss, the other is driven away, and lodged as Provision for the Fish and their Fry.

Several Hay-carts coming to *London*, were likewise overblown in the high-way, where they lay, it being a folly to rear up that which the next puff would throw down again, and leave in the same condition; neither could a man himself, either on foot or on horseback keep his way, but was forced either backwards or sideways, as the gusts blowed; some men were constrained to quit their saddles, being blown off their horses backs.

Several Hay-reeks, Barns and Stables, by the vehemence of this Hurricane, have been driven about the fields uncovered, and gabel ends of them quite carried off; many stocks of chimneys have been carried twenty foot from the place they were built on,

and have been thrown upon houses far distant, and not adjoining thereto.

The *Thames* flowed not in sixteen hours together, nor was there any the least sign of an alteration in the tide, so that the River was fordable in many places, just as it hapned before the death of *Oliver*: A certain Waterman venturing to pass the bridge, it being the time of the tides turning, had his boat overfet; and set right again, whereunto he got, and persisting in the humor of getting through, was overturned again, and again he recovered the career of his boat, and had doubtless then perished, but that some men compassionate, of his trade, ventured from *S. Olaves* stairs, and brought him safely off to shore.

In the High-ways about *London*, several trees are blown down, and lie so athwart the road, that it is very difficult and troublesome for Wagons and Carts to pass too and fro. Several Mills have been blown down, to the very great damage of the *Browers*, and loss of corn, in this time of scarcity and necessity. At *Greenwich* a miserly Farmer having a barn of corn, which he refused to sell even when the price was risen to twelve shillings the bushel, by a fire that began in a place adjacent, and violently driven towards the said barn, had all his grain totally consumed; Divine Providence frustrating him, as well as he pitilessly deprived the poor of sustenance.

In the Right Honorable the Earl of *Essex* Park in *Hertfordshire*, no less than five hundred trees are blown down; such like mischief hath been done in a multitude of other places, and here in *London* in *Lincolns-Inn Walks*, and *Moorfields*, where there seemed to be good shelter.

Divers Vessels have been wrackt at Sea, the wherries of the River of *Thames* grievously shattered and dashed one against another, and against the stairs where they lay. For the Sea particularly, a Vessel of 200 tun, bound from *Waterwick* in *Suffolk*, to *London*, laden with cheese and butter, having lain wind-bound for twelve days before, taking the advantage of that gale, put out to Sea, and three hours after was surprized with the tempest, in sight of *Harwich*, into which Harbour, the Master being a skilful Seaman, endeavored to get (while another Vessel despairing of doing it, ran herself ashore, and saved the lives of the men, and her goods) but the wind beating directly off that shore, he was put so to Leeward, that he could recover neither the one nor the other; and his ship was so bruised, that having rid out the storm from morning till four in the afternoon, he at last sunk down in sight of *Harwich* aforesaid; ship, men and goods, being utterly lost, to the great loss of the Traders in those Commodities.

At *S. Nedes* and *Eynsbury* in *Huntingtonshire*, the wind hath unript the Lead from off both those Parish Churches, and folded it up almost to the very ends; and done very near a thousand pound damage in those places: The like hath been done in the County round about, beyond all example.

At *Portsmouth* in *Hampshire*, a ship bound for *New-found-lands* being rigged, victualled, and equipaged for Voyage, with her nets and other necessities for the Trade of Fishing, being weared at Anchor within the Haven, was by the extreme violence of the wind, driven from her Anchor, and one man onely being then aboard her, who seeing her drive, wisely

withdrew himself into her boat that lay at the stern, and with much ado having cut her away from the ship, rowed himself to shore: The ship was carried away by the storm, and was lost, no man knowing what became of her, to the very great damage of the owners and traders concerned in her.

In Surrey a Countreyman walking in his grounds, was upon his return home, aside whereof somewhat distant stood a Pond, was by this Hurrican constrained and forced thither, not being able to withstand it, or to keep himself in his right way: Being thus driven till he came to the very brink of the Pond, and seeing there was no way but that he must in, which was dangerous, by reason of the depth thereof, he wisely threw himself flat on his belly, and so crawled round to the opposite part of the Pond, where rising, the wind took him, and blew him into his house, where he was glad to finde a shelter, though not quite out of danger, by the fall of his chimneys.

In *Cambridgeshire*, a Gentleman going to help and mend his pales which the wind had overturned, while he was at work with his Servants, the same storm blew down his barn. O, quoth he, *hath the Devil no where to go but over my barn?* In speaking whereof, downnext came the stables too: So, saith he, *now Devil do thy worst, better stand still, then cross your will;* and so gave over working, till he see an end of what he was to repair, and what entire and standing, would be the Fiends leavings, as he merrily added.

In *Kent*, most of the Gentlemens houses are shattered and torn, part of them carried away, and born down with out-houses, stacks of Hay, and such like, that some particular persons of account there, will
hardly

hardly repair their ruines caused by the Tempest, about their Mannors, for a thousand pounds apiece.

At *Wveston* in *Cambridgeshire*, a man being upon a barn; intending to secure and fasten his thatch, the wind lifted him up into the ayr, and there sported with him as with a feather, and then set him down upon the ground at a good distance from the barn safely and easily, upright on his feet, to the wonder and amazement of himself and spectators.

At the *Piazza's* in *Covent Garden*, two Bricklayers seeing the havock made by the storm, and were standing and viewing upward the bare places from whence the tiles fell, one of them said frolically to his companion, *Come, let's be merry, we have work now for fourteen days*; whereupon instantly a tile fell, and took him on the head with such a force, that it wounded him, and struck him to the ground; at which accident his fellow presently replied, *Come, let's be merry, I will warrant you work for fourteen days*; but it is supposed his cure will not be effected, if then, within fourteen weeks.

At *Abington*, the steeple of the Church having for some while rockt and nodded backward and forward, being a very well and strong built Fabrick, came at last down with such a powder and rubbish, and with such a great noise, that the beholders, though they expected its fall, were affrighted when it tumbled; and astonished at its ruines.

In *Westminster*, on that part of the Hall which looks towards *Lambeth*, on the frontispiece Battlement, where the Head of *Cook* the Sollicitor of that infamous High Court of Injustice stood, it blew so outrageously, that at last the aforesaid head was blown down

pown, but was soon after set up again on the same place, where it now stands.

Divers little Rivers have been so driven with the Tempest, that they were left dry for a while, the waters being blown out faster then the Springs could supply them, the fish being left in holes, and upon the gravel, till a recruit came and covered them.

A Coachman coming from *Windsor*, as he sate in the box driving the horses, who were scarce able to keep the road, and the Coach several times near overborn, was at last himself quite blown off the box into the high-way, where by the fall he broke his neck, and dyed immediately.

At *Charing-Cross*, in the back way that leads to the Tennis-Court, some horses in the adjoining stables having for fear got out from thence, and running for shelter under the brickwal that goes up to the houses, the said brickwal having made two or three totters, at last fell down upon the laid horses, killed and bruised many of them, being some of them Horses for service, and for the race.

At *Greenwich*, where we have observed some other losses, a wall likewise fell down, to the length of thirty rod, together, but it pleased God, without any hurt or mischief to any body.

From several Houses in *London*, and the Countrey, the Lead (as hath been shewed before) hath been forced from their tops, and rolled up, and in some places ponderous weights of it, to a thousand pound and upwards, hath been blown thirty, forty, and fifty foot from the places it covered; and in one place twenty five foot level upon another house, and there broke down the rafters, and sunk into the lower rooms.

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In other places of the Countrey, as in *Dorsetshire*, hath been a kinde of Earthquake with the Wind, so that the Inhabitants ran out of their houses, fearing they would sink, and be swallowed up in the earth, observing the timber to settle, and the ground floors to move.

Most of pales of the *London Bridge* were blown down; where a Woman venturing to look through some that stood; into the River, had her Coats blown about her ears, and could by no means bring them down again, but was exposed to the view and laughter of wiser people, who would not trust themselves to the danger of passing over.

Neither hath this Wind been more favourable or less boisterous in other parts of the World, as far as yet we can receive intelligence, nor knowing by the Post, from distant places, what harm it hath don there; but in *Holland* it hath been outrageous and violent, as here; for in the *Texel*, of fifty ships that lay near one another, above forty of them are wracked, sunk, and run ashore, who they soon after bulyed, many mens lives being lost therein, besides other inestimable worth of Merchandize.

In *France* likewise abundance of hurt hath been done in the same nature and manner as here, by beating down houses, rooting up of trees, throwing down barns and hay-stacks, and lesser mischief of chimneys and tops of houses: But that which more neerly concerns, is, that several Vineyards have been spoiled, the Vines torn up, and levelled with the ground; so that there is great fear of scarcity of Wine, and a bad Vintage there: All the hope is, this Wind hath not reached the *Canary Islands*, and then there is some comfort

comfort left to chear up our hearts after this devasta-
tion and spoil.

In the Kingdom of *Ireland* it hath also done a great
deal of hurt, in the Towns, and in the fields.

But amidst all this fury, the ruinous Cathedrals of
England, which most men feared would be utterly
overturnd, are by special Providence, as it were, un-
touched, no material or great hurt being done them,
especiall that of *S. Pauls, London*, whose venerable
Head weathered out all the violence of the Tempest;
so we have seen Sacriledge to be stronger and more
forcible then age and storms, it having endured years
and gusts with more easie patience, then the fingers
of covetous and Church-robbing Sectaries. It is now
resettled upon its ancient pillars and foundation, Epis-
copal Authority and Regiment, and no doubt will
stand fast, till the speedy piety and bounty of its Re-
storers, shall repair it to its first glorious Magnifi-
cence.

Quod faxit Deus.

FINIS.

